

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS- FY 2003

MARINE PUMP OUT GRANTS

RFP for the Receipt of grant applications by qualified public and private marinas, yacht clubs and municipalities to construct, replace retrofit and maintain marine pump out facilities and pump out boats.

These grants can be for fixed base or mobile pump-out facility. The DEM division of Water Resources and Director through a competitive process will award grants for the development of boater (discharges) waste disposal options in Rhode Island marine waters that conforms to the mandatory Federal No Discharge designation. Through this ongoing program, the state has reduced a significant source of fecal contamination and pathogens near shellfish harvesting and swimming areas. The magnitude and complexity of the problem is related to the number of boats utilizing the Bay, the transient nature of boating, the location of boat anchorages with respect to bathing and shellfish harvesting areas and the lack of available land side toilet and pump-out facilities.

The state is required to maintain it's no discharge status (received August 1998) by assuring that the infrastructure is in sound operating condition. This responsibility lies with the Department of Environmental Management.

The program as established in Rhode Island limits the grants to 75% for up to the first \$20,000 (up to \$15,000 maximum) for the project, with applicants required to pay at least 25% of the cost of any project. There is funding available up to \$206,000 provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Clean Vessel Act for FY 2003.

This program builds on the fact that Rhode Island was the first state in the country to receive the Environmental Protection Agency's no discharge designation for all of its marine waters. The department expects to receive ten applications during this round and the department will give grants throughout the federal fiscal year provided funding exists. **Priority for grant awards during the current round will be given to proposals from Sakonnet Harbor applicants, which has been identified as a priority area having received no prior funding.**

The grant proposal period would end on March 28, 2003; proposals submitted after March 28, 2003 will not be assured of funding and would need to resubmit in a subsequent grant round. Applications not received by the closing date will not be considered for funding during the current round and will be returned to the applicant without prejudice. Such applications may be resubmitted during a subsequent round or if in the determination of the DEM Director, funding remains available.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Only owners of any Rhode Island marinas may apply for grants to support projects that must be located at that marina. A non-owner operator may apply for such a grant, but only if the owner countersigns the application and the grant award.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

The applicant must meet and respond to the following general site criteria to be eligible for funding:

1. Is the application for operating and maintenance funding only?
2. In situations where a direct connection to a sewer line is possible, is it proposed?
3. Are facility components, particularly those, which could limit capacity such as pumps and holding tanks, large enough to accommodate projected demand based on industry standards and norms?
4. Has a safe, reliable and sanitary means for collecting, storing and transporting waste been identified?
5. Is the proposed facility conveniently located relative to concentrations of recreational vehicles?
6. Is the channel access, maneuvering room and water depth sufficient to accommodate the maximum range of vessel size and draft?
7. Are proposed days and hours of operation convenient and sufficient? Will the facility be available for the better parts of the boating season?
8. Will the facility be available on a fair and equitable basis to all members of the recreational boating public?
9. Will a significant number of recreational fishermen be accommodated?
10. Have appropriate and adequate operating and maintenance procedures been identified?

The application must be on forms approved by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and can be obtained on the DEM web site or at the address listed below. All applications will be accepted at the Office of Water Resources in Providence between 8:30 am and 4:00pm on any business day.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

The DEM Director appoints the Awards Advisory Committee which makes its recommendations to the Director, who may reject, adopt or adopt with modifications the committee's recommendation. The Awards Advisory Committee composition will have a working knowledge of RI marine waters in terms of harbor location and density of boats with full technical knowledge of what is required at various sites. The Director with the advice of the committee has the authority to adjust grant awards so that no one community, water body, or marina receives a disproportionate amount of the available funding and that a geographic distribution of funds is achieved, all in conformance with the "Pump out Siting Plan."

The membership of the committee by adopted regulation consists of a representative of the RI Marine Trade Association, a representative from the DEM Water Resources Office, a representative from the DEM Fish and Wildlife Division.

The committee shall review all complete applications considering the general criteria described above as well as the following specific facility criteria:

1. Is the proposed facility located in a water body identified as requiring additional pump out capacity in the division of water resources "Pumpout Siting Plan."
2. Is the application for a new facility?
3. Is the application for renovation of an existing facility?
4. Is the application for a pump out?
5. Is the application for a dump station?
6. Is the application for maintenance funding only?
7. In situations where a direct connection to a sewer line is possible, is it proposed?
8. Has a safe, reliable and sanitary means of collecting, storing, and transporting waste been identified?

Grant recipients are required to maintain accurate, current and complete financial records, which are sufficient in detail and substance to clearly establish that grant funds have been properly expended for approved grant purposes. Recipients are required to present these financial records to the department upon request. Accounting records must be supported by source documentation which shall include but not be limited to cancelled checks, paid bills, time and attendance records, contract and subcontract award documents.

Any fees charged to users are to be retained and separately accounted for, and used exclusively to defray operation and maintenance costs of the facility and equipment funded by the grant under this program. Grant funds will be paid out by reimbursement only after review by the program administrator.

The Department will publish on the RI State Purchasing web site and the DEM web site the announcement for this grant. In addition, the department will notify City and Town Councils, municipal chief executives, harbormasters, marinas, yacht clubs, and the RI Marine Trade Association through publication in their monthly newsletter.

The grant award requires the grantor to obtain all required permits for the successful completion of the project as well as comply with all federal and state executive orders.

For further information and a copy of the rules and regulations, application form, and grant award questionnaire for the installation and maintenance of a marine pump out facility, and a representative contractual agreement, please contact Joseph Migliore at the Department of Environmental Management; telephone number 222-3961 x 7258.

Address: 235 Promenade Street, Water Resources Office,
Providence, RI 02908